

in the left arm by a minie ball and does not return to the brigade till the fall. Colonel Wm. J. Clarke, of the Twenty-fourth, as senior Colonel, succeeds him. Battle at long range continued through the day.

FOURTH DAY'S FIGHT.

15 May. Yesterday's program continued, in which we again lose a brigade commander, Colonel Clarke being wounded in the shoulder by the fragment of a shell. Colonel Leroy M. McAfee, of the Forty-ninth, then assumes command. The Fifty-sixth occupied a position on the line near the Washington Artillery, of New Orleans.

Without the means of corroboration, I here note that we hear that the President, who has come down from Richmond, orders General Beauregard to make a general assault to-morrow, and that Beauregard files a protest, in view of the terrible odds against his available force—at least 3 to 2, probably double that—and protected by breastworks.

BATTLE OF DREWRY'S BLUFF.

16 May. Soon after midnight the brigade is moved from the trenches, occupied for the last three days, and formed in line of battle across the turnpike, facing towards Petersburg, with the left of the Fifty-sixth resting on the turnpike. Up to this time it was thought we were going out to get a rest. This opinion, however, was dispelled by the issuing of an extra quantity of cartridges. But for the first time in our history, we start in on the reserve line. Just before dawn we move forward supporting Bushrod R. Johnson's Tennessee Brigade. They suffer severely near the turnpike, their advance being impeded by obstructions of telegraph wire upon which many of them are tripped within deadly range. But they gallantly carry the line in their front, while our Twenty-fourth and Forty-ninth take the enemy's line of works in a piece of woods to their right. The assault is, as Mr. Davis had predicted, successful at every point; while Major-General Robert Ransom, having come out from Richmond with three Brigades, is sweeping down their left flank, and rear, capturing some regiments entire. Before Ransom